

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 27 are currently pending in the application. In Claims 4-5, 15-16, 25-26, the mathematical notation "looks" different than in the original claim, but no substantive amendment is being made.

At page 2 of the office action, the Examiner has inquired regarding inventorship. The Examiner appears to have overlooked the Request to Correct Inventive Entity and Statement of Maria Minkoff filed December 19, 2002.

At paragraph 1 of the office action, an objection to the specification has been made. The blank serial number has been supplied as requested by the Examiner.

In the office action, claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyd et al. (US 2005/0256778).

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that Boyd is not listed on the PTO Form 892 and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a PTO Form 892 listing Boyd.

Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation rejection based on Boyd '778. Boyd '778 was published November 17, 2005 from an application filed November 26, 2003. Applicants' present application, however, was filed December 4, 2001. Boyd '778 is not properly cited as prior art, because Boyd '778 is after Applicants' December 4, 2001 filing date.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejection based on Boyd '778 are respectfully requested.

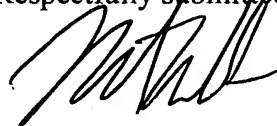
In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 - 27 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: Mike@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of

time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 (IBM-Yorktown).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Whitham', written over the typed name.

Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
703-787-9400
703-787-7557 (fax)